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I can't make this out, can you?

The Relief & Burial Association has recently lost one of its members. This association paid \$100 for funeral and burial expenses, and to the surviving relatives \$33.40 in cash as relief benefits. All of which cost the deceased member \$4.50.

Relief & Burial Association moved to Mrs. E. C. Williams Undertaking Parlor, 1120 Fort Street, Phone Main 173.

A TANTALUS PARK IS CALLED FOR

Committee Report of Research Club.

Strong Arguments Why Action Should Be Taken.

The following is the report of the special committee of the Research Club upon Tantalus Park:

It is generally recognized and admitted that a park system is essential to the health, pleasure and well being of an urban population. In Honolulu under climatic conditions which demand an out of door life, the people need parks and open spaces as much as do those in other American communities.

With the expansion of the city it is eminently desirable that a comprehensive plan for a park system be adopted, and that the land be set apart while it is still available.

The areas which are now under discussion as most suitable for parks are the proposed reservations at Waikiki, Punchbowl, and Tantalus Heights. There seems no question as to the desirability of the Waikiki and Punchbowl Parks and little question as to their boundaries. In the case of Tantalus the location of the best boundary is not so evident.

There is no doubt that in Tantalus Honolulu has a natural mountain park, combining the advantages of accessibility, charm of situation and beauty of out-look, of which few places in the world can boast. The matter then of how much land it is best to make available for the use of the public, demands a thoughtful consideration of all those who are interested in preventing the repetition of a catastrophe similar to that which deprived Honolulu of its Waikiki bathing beach.

The only pertinent objections which have been made against the reservation of Tantalus Heights as a park, are as follows:

1. That in its present financial condition, the Territory cannot afford to appropriate any money for the creation or maintenance of parks, or to lose any possible realization, especially from such a course, as the sale of the remaining available house lots on Tantalus.
2. That it is being made in the interest of a few property holders and is not justified by any real necessity.
3. That the proposed park is too large in area and that it would not be used by the people if it were set apart.
4. That even if it were advisable to set the land apart the same results could be got equally well by making it a forest reserve.

To make clear certain of the points brought out in the following discussion, the accompanying map has been prepared. It shows the relation between the government and the privately owned land on Tantalus, the ownership of the several lots lying within the proposed park, and the three lines which have been suggested for the lower or makai boundary.

To meet the objections stated above the following arguments are presented to show the reasons why it is desirable that Tantalus Heights should be reserved and set apart as a public park:

1. It is true that the Territory is not at present in a financial condition to make outlays which are unnecessary or which can be avoided, but neither can it afford, for a small immediate gain to sacrifice what may be to its best future interest to retain. The money which could be derived from the sale of all the possible remaining lots on Tantalus would probably not amount, at the outside, to more than \$15,000. The value of such a park as Tantalus, set apart for all time for the free use of the people of the Territory, is difficult to measure in money but the gain which it would do is out of all proportion to the amount of money involved.

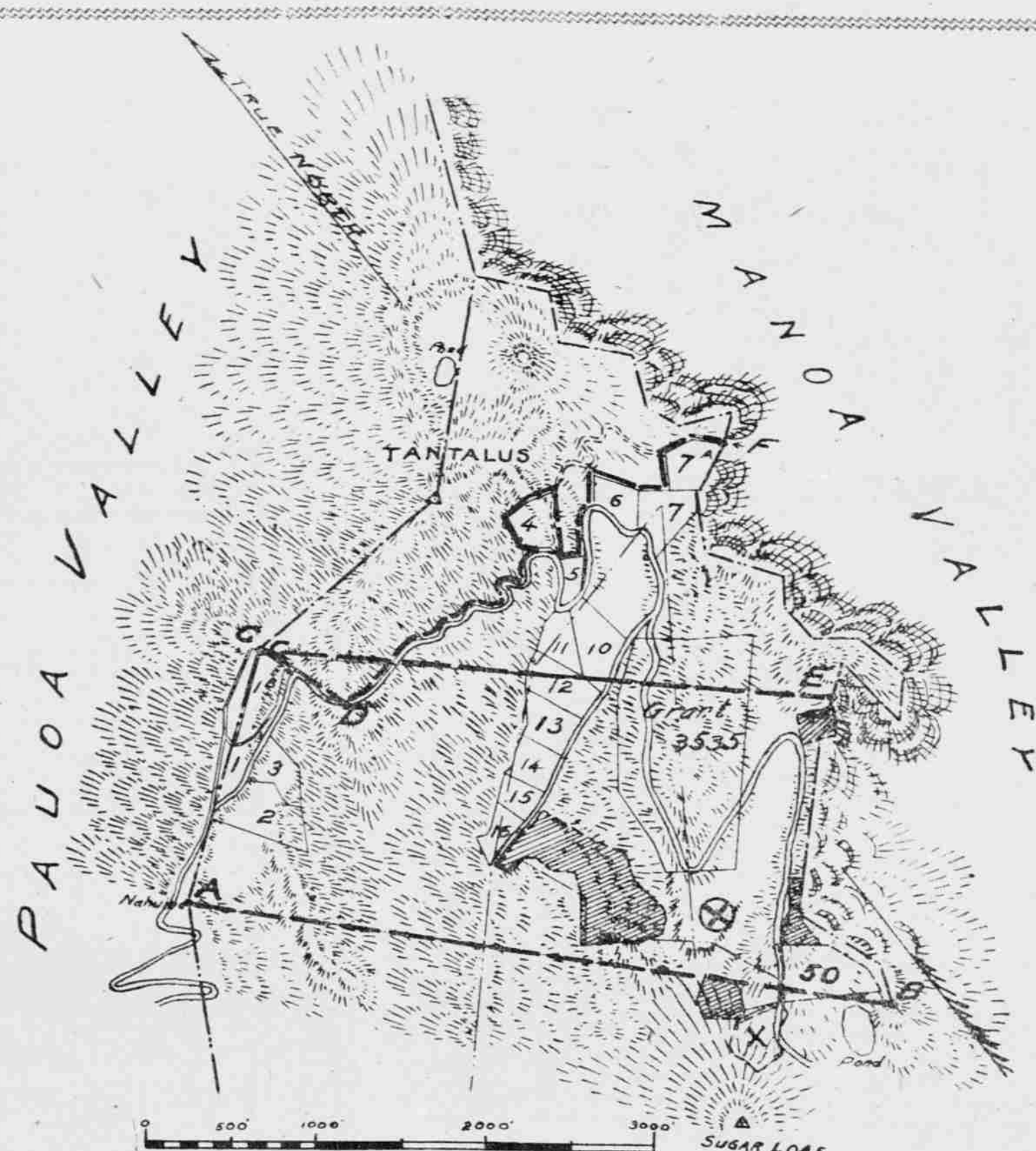
As perhaps the chief beauty of Tantalus consists in its very wildness, the cost of maintaining it as a forest park will be practically nothing. With the good road already existing, all that is now or will for a long time be needed is the opening of a few trails. This work, which would occupy one man for a short time only, could probably be done by the forest ranger to be appointed for the eastern end of Oahu, and consequently at no additional expense to the Government.

The time for the creation of parks is when the land is easily available or to be had at small cost. Surely if Tantalus is ever to be reserved the time is now.

The objection that those who already have lots on Tantalus are the ones who would be primarily benefited by the establishment of the park is not well founded. Considered strictly from a financial point of view, whether or not the few available government lots now remaining are sold and built upon will not materially alter the value of existing property nor would the reservation of them noticeably increase prices. Some of the best lots on Tantalus are now and have for some time been in the market without purchasers, a fact showing the absence of any pressing demand for more lots.

If the remaining government lots were for sale cheap there would naturally be plenty to take them up, but if the price were put on a par with the lots now on sale it is hard to see why they should be more in demand, except as their location is better. In any event the number of good lots remaining is so small that the time when no more are available has practically already been reached.

The same reasons which make the



SKETCH MAP OF TANTALUS HEIGHTS SHOWING VARIOUS LINES RECOMMEND FOR PROPOSED PARK BOUNDARIES.

A—B—Research Club Committee Line.
C—E—Compromise Line.
D—F—Senate Committee Line.

LIST OF OWNERS OF LOTS ON TANTALUS HEIGHTS.

Name.	Lot Number.
Mrs. T. R. Foster	1, 1B.
L. A. Thurston	2
A. J. Lovelock	3
J. G. Rothwell	4
S. M. Ballou	5
Andrew Brown	6
T. Clive Davies	7, 7A.
C. F. Peterson	10
H. A. Isenberg	11
J. Humphrey	12
Fred. Harrison	13
A. V. Gear	14
Dr. C. B. Cooper	15
A. W. Carter	16
Judge W. F. Frear	50
H. W. Schmidt	Grant 3535
W. M. Giffard	X in circle.
Kukui Flat—Picnic Ground.	

Sections shaded indicate the private parcels of land sold to various parties by W. R. Castle.

lots valuable for purchasers also make them valuable for the public. With the remaining lots sold, the public would be confined to the highway, finding on every side the forbidding signs of "private property," "no trespassing" and "keep out."

It is a lamentable fact, and one which is not generally known, that the trail from the Hog Back leading up to the peak of Tantalus runs through private property and that, through the shortsightedness of a former Superintendent of Public Works, the public may at any moment be barred from using this trail, which at present is the most accessible one to the peak.

Although covering considerable area, there is really very little government land left on Tantalus that is suitable for lots. On the western side especially the slopes are so steep that there is not even room for a house site without digging away the hillside, much less for a fair-sized lot.

Furthermore, one of the largest areas (designated on the map as X) is not suitable for house lots, as it is too low between the ridges to have any outlook, and besides is swampy and wet in the ordinary trade wind weather. At its lower end a flat, well-drained area is the only suitable picnic ground of any size on Tantalus. If this lot were sold it would remove the last chance for the public to enjoy this form of recreation.

As the argument that the present owners on Tantalus are the ones to be benefited, seems in part to have been directed against Mr. W. R. Castle, who at one time owned a considerable area within the limits of the proposed park, Mr. Castle authorizes the statement that he does not now own one square inch of land inside the proposed park area; that the only place that he does own in the neighborhood, outside of the proposed limits (an area of about two acres), he will for one dollar deed to the Territory for park purposes, in order to help on the park proposition, and that it has been his intention for some time to turn this area over to the government for this use.

2. Because of the argument that the area of the proposed park is too large these lines have been suggested as the lower or makai boundary, as follows:

- (a) From points A to B on the map. This is the line proposed by this Committee.
- (b) From points C to E on the map is known as the compromise line and is the one called for in Senate Bill No. 5.
- (c) From point C to D to F, or along the road and the makai boundary of lots 6, 7, and 7A. This was the line recommended by the special committee of the Senate to whom the Park Bill was originally referred.

The advantages claimed for the upper lines are that the area to be reserved is smaller, that a larger number of lots are excluded from the reservation.

and consequently left for sale, and that the objects of the park are as well met as by the lower line.

The objections to the road as a boundary line are as follows:

The area left above the line consists only of the bare peak of Tantalus and the windswept flat on the Manoa side near the pond. No provision is made for any good picnic ground nor for the public to have access to the attractive points overlooking Manoa Valley. Furthermore, one of the features of Tantalus and one of the reasons why it is desired to reserve the area is because of the forest of native koa and kukui trees which clothe the gulch sides. Practically all of this forest is below the line of the road, or makai of lots 6 and 7 for the steep sides of the peak of Tantalus are covered with grass and are without forest trees.

To limit the park to the area above the road would be to say to the public you may keep on the road and on the steep trail of the summit, you may picnic by the pond if the wind allows you and you may then walk along the road and look at the warning signs on private property.

The compromise line has the advantage of including as a part of the park the desirable points overlooking Manoa Valley and a portion of the steep sides of the gulch on the west side. It is argued that, as the lower part of the gulch is too steep for anything but forest, it does not matter whether it is reserved or not, but this is an argument which can be turned to better advantage by including this area, because if it is within the limits of the park it can be under the control and in the custody of a Park Commission, whereas if it is left out it becomes a tract in which no one has authority or controlling interest.

The advantages of the lower line are that it reserves for public use the several areas already mentioned, the look-out points over Manoa Valley and the picnic ground on the eastern side. It includes all the forest in the gulches, nearly down to the land controlled by the Honolulu Water Works. And, although it embraces a much larger area than either of the other lines, the greater part of this additional area consists of the steep slopes of the gulch sides, so that the actual area of land available for house lots is not so very much greater than by the compromise line.

The argument that the people do not use or need the Tantalus park cannot be candidly made by one who really knows the conditions. At present Tantalus is visited and enjoyed, not alone by those who have homes there or who can ride and drive up the mountain, but also by a large number of persons who walk up the road and over the trails. There are very few Saturdays or Sundays when upward of one hundred people

do not visit Tantalus. Statistics are being gathered to show that a large number of the school children of this city make frequent use of Tantalus for a mountain outing.

From the Royal School comes the report that from their 250 pupils who are above ten years of age 200 have been up Tantalus at one time or another, while 100 have been up within a year.

With the more attractive lookout points made accessible by the inexpensive trail already mentioned, and by another which is projected from near the end of the car line in Manoa Valley, the park would be much more used than it is at present, and would attract many persons who do not now visit Tantalus.

This spur looking into Manoa Valley, which is not included in the park as bounded by the road line, would become a most valued and much used part of the reservation.

Besides its value as a recreation ground for the people of the Territory, the Tantalus park would prove another attraction to the visitor to Honolulu, which by causing him to carry away pleasant memories of the city would tend to bring more tourists to our shores.

As it is now, Mr. E. M. Boyd, Secretary of the Hawaiian Promotion Committee, estimates that Tantalus is visited by 90 per cent. of the tourists coming to Honolulu.

In answer to the argument that there is no need to create a park on Tantalus because the Governor can by proclamation set it apart as a forest reserve there is the very decided objection that the objects and ideals of parks and of forest reserves are not at all the same.

A forest reserve is made primarily for economic reasons, to protect the forest that it may be utilized for commercial ends, either through the sale of forest products, or, as is the case in many of the forest reserves proposed in this Territory, by protecting the water sheds of streams that supply irrigation systems.

A park is created primarily to preserve for public use localities of particular beauty or those which contribute in special ways to the health or enjoyment of the people.

It has been further argued that as the Governor has the right to set aside land at Waikiki for park purposes, that he can do the same on Tantalus. The cases are not similar. The lots at Waikiki adjoin and are logically part of the existing park. Under the existing law the Park Commission has the care of Kapiolani Park only. The land on Punchbowl and Tantalus has no possible connection with Waikiki. Therefore it is a matter for legislative rather than executive action. It is, as the law exists, properly and wholly a matter for the legislature to (Continued on Page 6.)

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